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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,524	11/20/2003	Yoshio Mizutani	117814	6875
25944	7590	12/21/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/716,524

Applicant(s)

MIZUTANI, YOSHIO

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/20/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-8 in the reply filed on 10/01/04 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. This is not found persuasive. First of all, Applicant has not given a reason why the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. Secondly, the connector can be made by a different method other than the step of injecting a molten resin into a die. Further, the recitations "injection and molding" in Group I has not been given patentable weight because the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 9-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 10/01/04.

Drawings

3. Figures 6 and 7 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled

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"Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, 7, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchiyama (6,007,387).

In regard to claim 1, Uchiyama discloses a connector comprising: a terminal fitting 2A having a bent portion (between 14A and 5A); and an outer covering 1 configured to cover a part of the terminal fitting 2A, the part including the bent portion, wherein the outer covering 1 comprises: an outer covering body made of resin; and a reinforcement member 8 disposed at a position where restricting a deformation of the terminal fitting caused by an injection pressure acting thereon in molding the outer covering body (column 5, lines 56-62).

In regard to claim 2, Uchiyama discloses that the terminal fitting 2A has a portion bent substantially in right angle, as the bent portion.

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In regard to claim 3, Uchiyama discloses that the reinforcement member 8 is disposed at a position adjacent to the bent portion.

In regard to claim 4, Uchiyama discloses that the reinforcement member 8 is disposed at a position of an inner side of the bending direction of the bent portion.

In regard to claim 5, Uchiyama discloses that the reinforcement Member 8 is made of the same material as that outer covering body (column 4, lines 3-5).

In regard to claim 7, Uchiyama discloses that the outer covering body 1 and the reinforcement member 8 are adhered with an adhesive agent (column 5, lines 28-33).

In regard to claim 8, Uchiyama discloses that the outer covering 1 is configured to be in close contact with the surface of the terminal fitting 2A.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (figures 6 and 7) in view of Uchiyama.

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In regard to claim 1, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses generally all that is claimed except for a reinforcement member disposed at a position where restricting a deformation of the terminal fitting caused by an injection pressure acting thereon in molding the outer covering body.

Uchiyama discloses a reinforcement member 8 disposed at a position where restricting a deformation of the terminal fitting caused by an injection pressure acting thereon in molding the outer covering body (column 5, lines 56-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Applicant's admitted prior art by adding the reinforcement member as taught by Uchiyama in order to produce a perfect electrical connector.

In regard to claim 6, Applicant's admitted prior art as modified by Uchiyama discloses a sealing member (is fitted to the groove adjacent reference number 102 in figures 6 and 7).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
12/16/04